JUL | AUG 2008

NORTHERN Home & Cottage

For the way you live Up North



Relaxed style

Creating the **PERFECT SUMMER COTTAGE** (again)

This guy loves his **CABIN**

A young family builds **MODERN ON THE BEACH**

plus

Make Champagne-melon soup tonight p.15

Hot gear for a cool cookout p.63

Recipe: Mario Batali's beef braciole p.65

Find your Northern dream home

INSIDE! *Northern Real Estate*

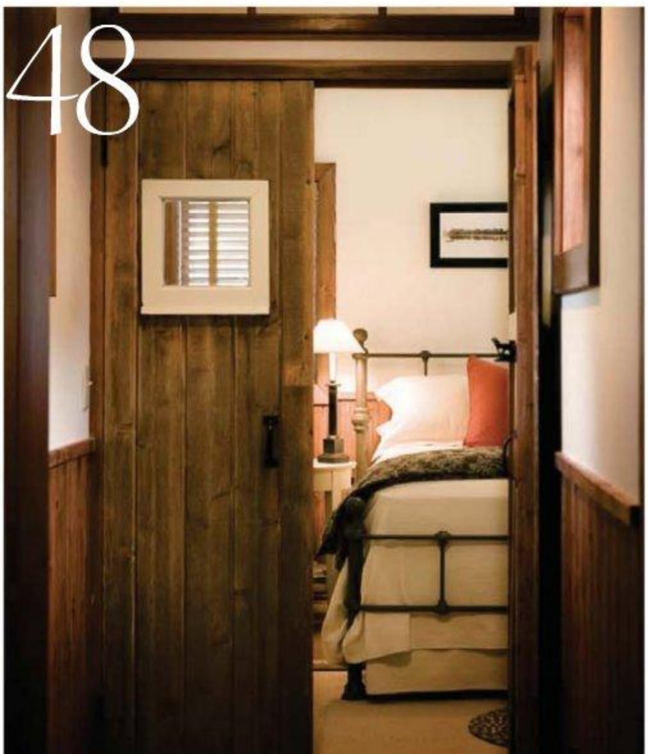
A SUPPLEMENT TO TRAVERSE, NORTHERN MICHIGAN'S MAGAZINE

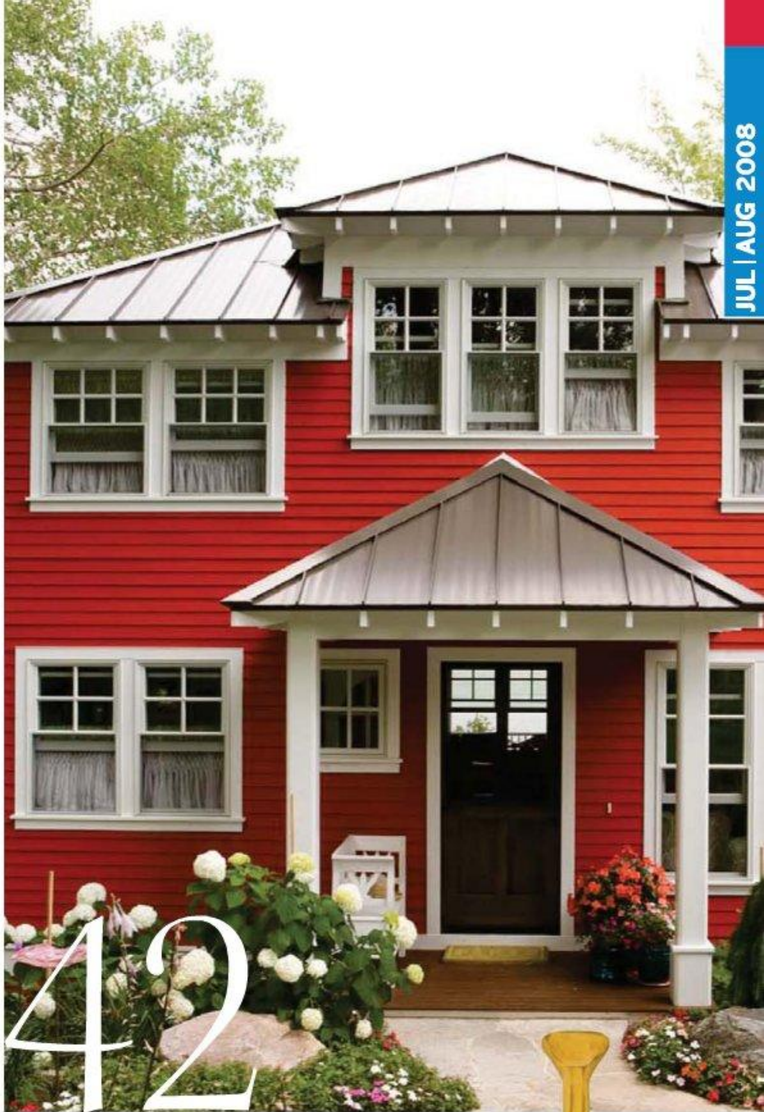
NORTHERN Home & Cottage
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MyNorth.com

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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: TODD ZAWISTOWSKI (2). BRIAN CONFER. TODD ZAWISTOWSKI. COURTESY KALAMAZOO GRILL.

departments



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PUT A LITTLE SUNSHINE IN YOUR COTTAGE

ON THE COVER: LAKESIDE DECK AT THE CARLSON HOME IN ELK RAPIDS, BY TODD ZAWISTOWSKI.

NORTHERN Home & Cottage
For the way you live Up North

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From the publisher of
Traverse
NORTHERN MICHIGAN'S MAGAZINE

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148 E. Front St., Traverse City, MI 49684
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Reprints
Wright's Reprints, 877-652-5295

MyNorth.com
northernhomeandcottage.com
traversemagazine.com

Northern Home & Cottage is published as a supplement to Traverse, Northern Michigan's Magazine
148 East Front Street, Traverse City, MI 49684

MEMBER city and regional magazines IRMA

Homes that live



WHAT IS IT THAT MAKES A HOUSE FIT INTO OUR INCREDIBLE *Northern setting?*

Watching an issue of *Northern Home & Cottage* come together is something like being the hostess of a party. You've invited the guests, you've planned everything from the dishware to the food, but you still don't know exactly what the vibe is going to be until the guests begin arriving. Midway through production of this issue, we could see that it was shaping up to be pretty spectacular. The home lineup was distinct, yet quintessentially Up North—a rustic modern beach house, a vintage cabin, a close-to-identical rebuild of a beloved old cottage. Looking at the proofs laid out in the office was like realizing that even though you've invited an eclectic mix of types, you find out (when the conversation turns from a hum to a hubbub) that they have loads of unexpected things in common.

What makes a home fit into our incredible Northern setting—regardless of its outward design or interior style? I often talk about organic materials, connection to the natural site, human scale, vernacular design and eco-friendly choices as the elements we look for when we choose the homes we feature. As you'll see, all three of these homes embody most, or all, of these qualities.

But this month I was struck by one other characteristic these homes have in common: they are homes that live. Reading their stories I pictured little boys trooping up to the house, dripping from a day in the lake; kids playing pickup soccer with Dad in the great room when it was too rainy to go to the beach; impromptu parties where the guests ate on trays because why not throw the doors open and invite all the neighbors? These are all dwellings that speak to the relaxed, close-to-the-outdoors way we live Up North.

Kick off your shoes, pour yourself something cold, find a patch of sand and enjoy this salute to living Up North.

Elizabeth Edwards is managing editor of Northern Home & Cottage.

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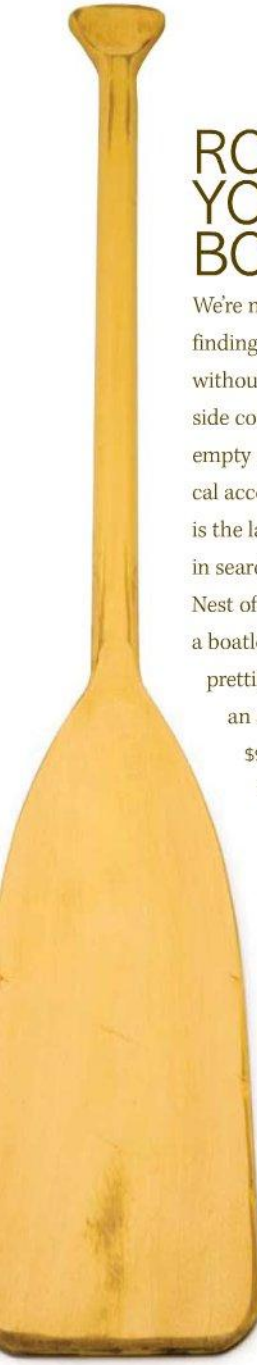
PHOTO: TODD ZAWISTOWSKI.

NORTHERN

style

The buzz on yellow and black style.

BY **LYNDA TWARDOWSKI**



ROW YOUR BOAT

We're not sure what's worse: finding yourself up a creek without a paddle or in a lakeside cottage whose walls are empty of said Up North nautical accessory. If your problem is the latter, don't go overboard in search of an antique one. Nest of Grand Traverse carries a boatload of paddles that are prettily distressed and painted an array of cottage colors. $92, TRAVERSE CITY, 231-946-0232, NESTOFGRANDTRAVERSE.COM.



Summer Nectar

The heady, fresh-floral scent of these petite French honey soaps is lovely in the bath, but it's also perfect for sweetly scenting your lingerie drawers.

$12 SET. CRYSTAL GARDENS, FRANKFORT, 231-352-9321, CRYSTALGARDENSM22.COM.



A shoe-in

Now joining the list of people whose lives have been vastly improved by Velcro: stylish women with shoe addictions. Switch Flops boast permanent, comfortable straps topped with Velcro, upon which you can press one of dozens of removable decorative straps, transforming one pair of shoes into a veritable closet-full. BASIC SWITCH FLOPS SHOE, $32 A PAIR, INCLUDES ONE PAIR OF REMOVABLE DECORATIVE STRAPS; ADDITIONAL STRAPS, $12 A PAIR. NORTHERN DÉCOR, BEULAH, 231-882-7371, NORTHERNDECOR.COM.

Sting for your supper

Oh, honey. No summer serving piece proves as useful on the beach party circuit as a big, unbreakable bowl. Fill this bright and lightweight beauty with a fruitful Up North bounty—try cherries, blueberries and sliced peaches sprinkled with mint leaves and lemon juice—and you'll be the buzz of any party you attend. $20, HOLIDAY TRADITIONS INC., TRAVERSE CITY, 231-941-3499, HOLIDAYTRADITIONSTC.COM.



elevate your foot

Slide this rustic lemon-colored three-foot bench against the foot of your cottage bed, and you'll have a pretty place to keep summer quilts for cool nights or to toss your robe on steamy ones.

$334, BETSIE BAY FURNITURE, FRANKFORT, 231-352-4202, BETSIEBAYFURNITURE.COM.



BENCH: BRIAN CONFER. OTHERS: TODD ZAWISTOWSKI.



Style IN THE BAG

The ultra summer standby, this razorback halter dress from Pine Cone Hill folds up to fit in its own clutch-size sack. Stash it in your beach bag to breeze from a Lake Michigan play day to dinner downtown. Its bamboo-and-spandex blend is soft, swingy and keeps wrinkles at bay. $44; other colors available, plus pants and tops. CRYSTAL CRATE & CARGO, BEULAH, 231-882-5294, CRYSTALCRATE.COM.



NORTHERN

style



GADGETS WE Love

In the quest for healthy summer eating—and not-so-healthy (but oh-so-delicious) summer scarfing—three culinary tools have taken top honors in *Northern Home & Cottage* staffers' kitchens. Drum roll, please.

Melon Cutter

You know how handy those apple cutters are? Think bigger. This easily gripped cutter is eight inches in diameter and cuts through cantaloupe, honeydew, small watermelons and even pineapples far quicker and easier than any knife can. Use it to speed through the making of the Champagne Melon Soup recipe on page 15. $19.95.

Poach Pod

If you fry your eggs because poaching is too tricky, try poach pods. The flexible silicone cups float in a boiling water bath, cradling each egg in a perfect circle as they cook. The result? A well-rounded breakfast. $9 A PAIR.

Baker's Sto 'N Go

Brownie pans, pie tins, cookie plates, deviled egg dishes—all seem like sensible serving ware until you try taking them somewhere in the car. Enter the Baker's Sto 'N Go, a handled plastic tote with removable sliding trays that protects food from all angles, travels easily and displays nicely. The outer shell is airtight so food stays fresh; its inner shelves can be arranged at different heights. $20 CASE COMES WITH THREE SHELVES; DEVILED EGG TRAYS SOLD SEPARATELY, $5 A PAIR. ALL AT CRYSTAL CRATE & CARGO, BEULAH, 231-882-5294, CRYSTALCRATE.COM.—L.T.

PHOTO: TODD ZAWISTOWSKI.

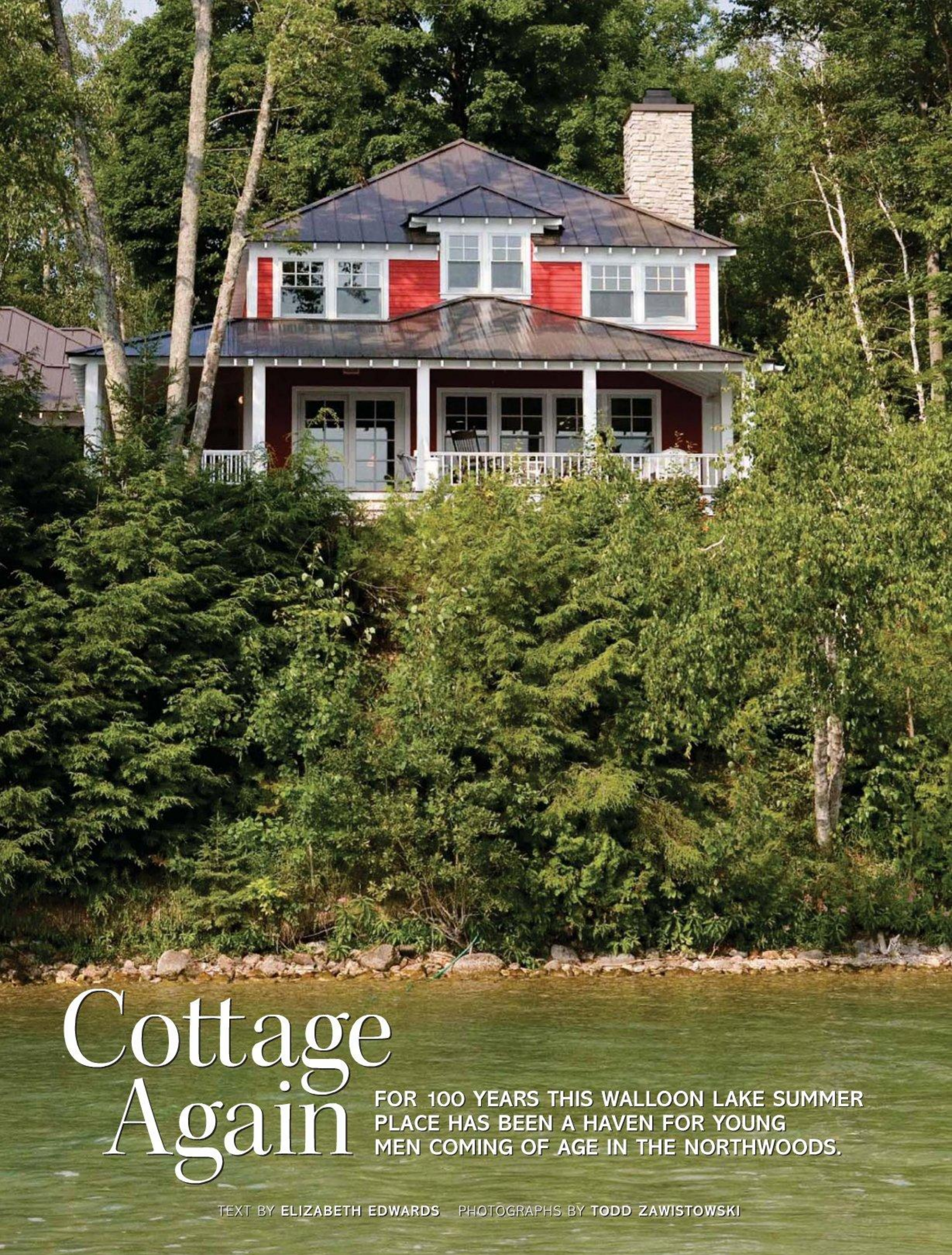


Champagne-melon Soup

Garden about to overflow with cantaloupe and honeydew? Plan on this cool and subtly sweet-and-bubbly soup for a summer supper first course.

- 3 cups coarsely chopped ripe cantaloupe
- 3 cups coarsely chopped ripe honeydew melon
- 2 cups fresh orange juice
- ⅓ cup fresh lime juice
- 3 tablespoons honey
- 2 cups dry Champagne
- Fresh mint leaves

Slice cantaloupe and honeydew melon, remove from rind and coarsely chop. Set aside 1½ cups of each. Place remaining coarsely chopped cantaloupe and honeydew in blender with orange juice, lime juice and honey, and puree for a few seconds. Pour into large bowl, then stir in Champagne and reserved melon pieces. Cover and refrigerate until ready to serve. Pour into iced bowls. Garnish with fresh mint leaves.—**L.T.**



Cottage Again

FOR 100 YEARS THIS WALLOON LAKE SUMMER PLACE HAS BEEN A HAVEN FOR YOUNG MEN COMING OF AGE IN THE NORTHWOODS.

TEXT BY **ELIZABETH EDWARDS** PHOTOGRAPHS BY **TODD ZAWISTOWSKI**





ABOVE: One of the family's pet Bichons relaxes on the screened-in porch. OPPOSITE: The Borisches had their new cottage painted the same shade of carnival red that their old cottage had been for decades—ever since a previous owner's uncle got the idea and went for it while he was staying there for a weekend.

Jonathan Borisch grew up in the village of Walloon Lake. One of his favorite childhood memories, says his wife, Mary Kay, is of playing on the porches of closed-up cottages when the summer people left for the season. He never played on the porch of the red cottage on Walloon Lake's west arm, but some 50 years earlier a young Ernest Hemingway took refuge in the cottage when storms forced his small rowboat off the lake.

The Borisches learned that tale from a neighbor, a nonagenarian, soon after they bought the cottage in the 1980's. Back then, they could look around the old house and know that not much had changed since the famous-writer-to-be had waited out the weather there. The cottage had no insulation. The plumbing amounted to a kitchen sink and an afterthought toilet tacked on to the back of the house. When the Borisches closed their summer home up for the winter, the squirrels and mice moved in through the cracks in the walls. Each spring the family was greeted by a pile of leaves blown under the door the autumn before. The first winter they owned the old place the porch caved in—succumbing to years of industrious carpenter ants.

In spite of what the old building dished out, the Borisches and their three sons couldn't wait for summer when they traded their life in Grand Rapids for Walloon Lake. "I'd have the car packed the day they got out of school, and we didn't come back until the end of summer,"



The vintage-feel backsplash is created from green and turquoise glass tiles blended with cream-colored ceramic tiles.

RIGHT: Living room shelves display part of Mary Kay's collection of Early American pastel ceramics and Fiestaware. **BELOW:** The chandelier in the stairwell is new, from the Italian company Murano. "It's whimsical and reminds us of the one at Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island," says Mary Kay. The chandelier over the dining room table is from Home Depot.







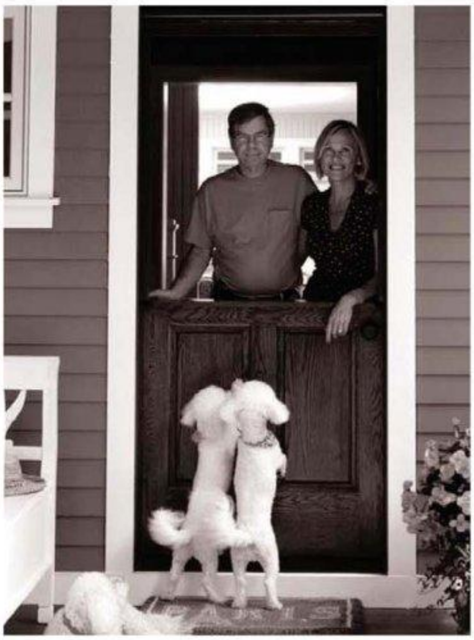
A NEW *Vintage*

Grand Rapids interior designer Kathryn Chaplow helped the Borisches put old cottage soul in their new home. Here are a few of her tricks:

- Chaplow based the color palette on a set of Fiestaware dishes and a collection of vintage linens that the Borisches used at the cottage. That decision translated into buttercup yellow walls in the living and dining rooms, and upholstery choices splashed with deep orange, red and turquoise—a look that is simultaneously fresh and warm.
- Mary Kay had a large collection of her own needlepoint work; the pieces scattered here and there in a flotsam of frames. Chaplow had them framed in matching frames and scattered them across the cottage walls where their bright colors pick up the Fiestaware hues and lend a personalized touch to the home.
- The women scoured antique shops and flea markets for vintage chandeliers. Spiffed up and rewired, the lights lend each room a last-century elegance. Their biggest score is a crystal chandelier in the master bedroom that came from the Horton Bay General Store—where Ernest Hemingway was once a patron.







CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: The clawfoot tub in the master bath has a view of Walloon Lake. Interior designer Kathryn Chaplow chose different pastel shades for the walls in each bedroom. The bed in the pink room is from Klingman's in Grand Rapids. Jonathan and Mary Kay (with Bichons Humphrey and Lily) at the front door.

FIND HOME & COTTAGE RESOURCES FOR THIS HOME ON PAGE 70.

Mary Kay says. "I loved that smell of an old cottage. When you woke up in the morning you could see the trees and the lake through the slats in the walls," she adds. Mostly, though, Mary Kay and Jonathan loved what summers on Walloon Lake did for their three sons. "Finding that cottage really was the answer to prayers," Mary Kay says. "When we found it, the boys were heading into some rough years. I think it really did protect them. They had a ball living up there in the woods. It was a wonderful place to raise little boys."

And then the boys grew up. Two of them married—to girls they met Up North in the summer—and then grandchildren were on the way. Mary Kay and Jonathan needed to make room at the cottage for their growing family. Strict township zoning clinched the design: to keep the new cottage as close to the water as the old one was, they'd have to build in the old envelope. If they had to do that, the Borisches decided to re-create the old cottage with some tweaks—including a finished basement with room enough for three bedrooms and baths where a crawlspace had been. Working with Boyne City builder Shane Baxter, they saved what they could of the old cottage, reusing old door hardware and hanging original beadboard in the foyer. Perhaps most significant, from the lake the cottage looks exactly as it has for a century.

The sweetest new touch is a light-filled, closed-in porch outfitted with four oversized chairs and a table-sized ottoman. The room is where Mary Kay hopes to settle her four grandchildren for story time after the beach—once they are through their squirmy stage. Among the children is eight-month-old Ann Katherine, the first girl in Jonathan's line in 88 years. She'll be the first Borisch girl who will grow up with childhood memories of summers on Walloon Lake.

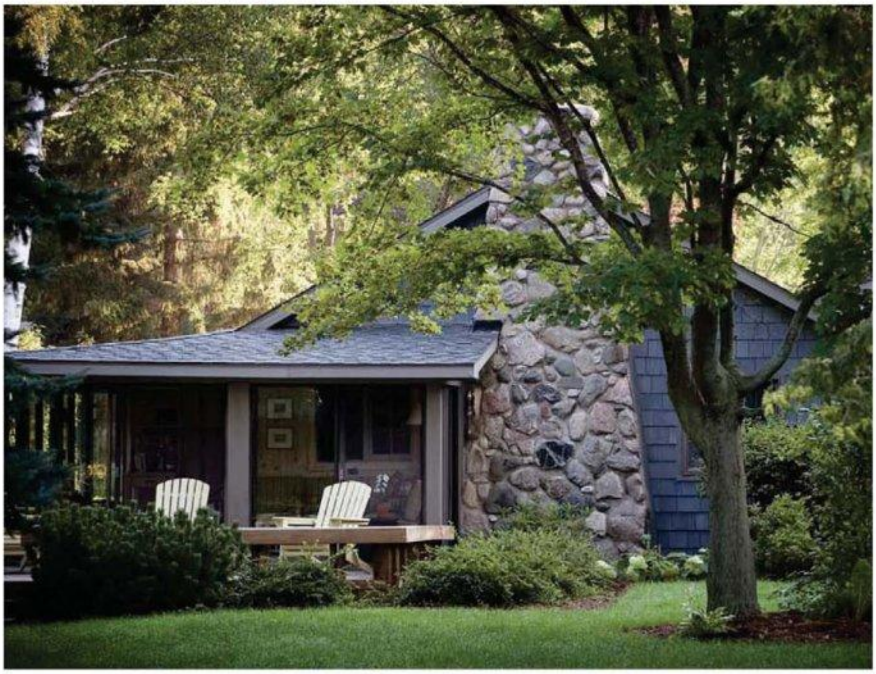
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Pint-sized & Perfect

TEXT BY **JANET LIVELY** | PHOTOGRAPHS BY **BRIAN CONFER**

A RETIRED NEW YORK EXECUTIVE FITS HIS CRYSTAL LAKE LIFE INTO A VERY SMALL COTTAGE AND LIVES HAPPILY EVER AFTER.

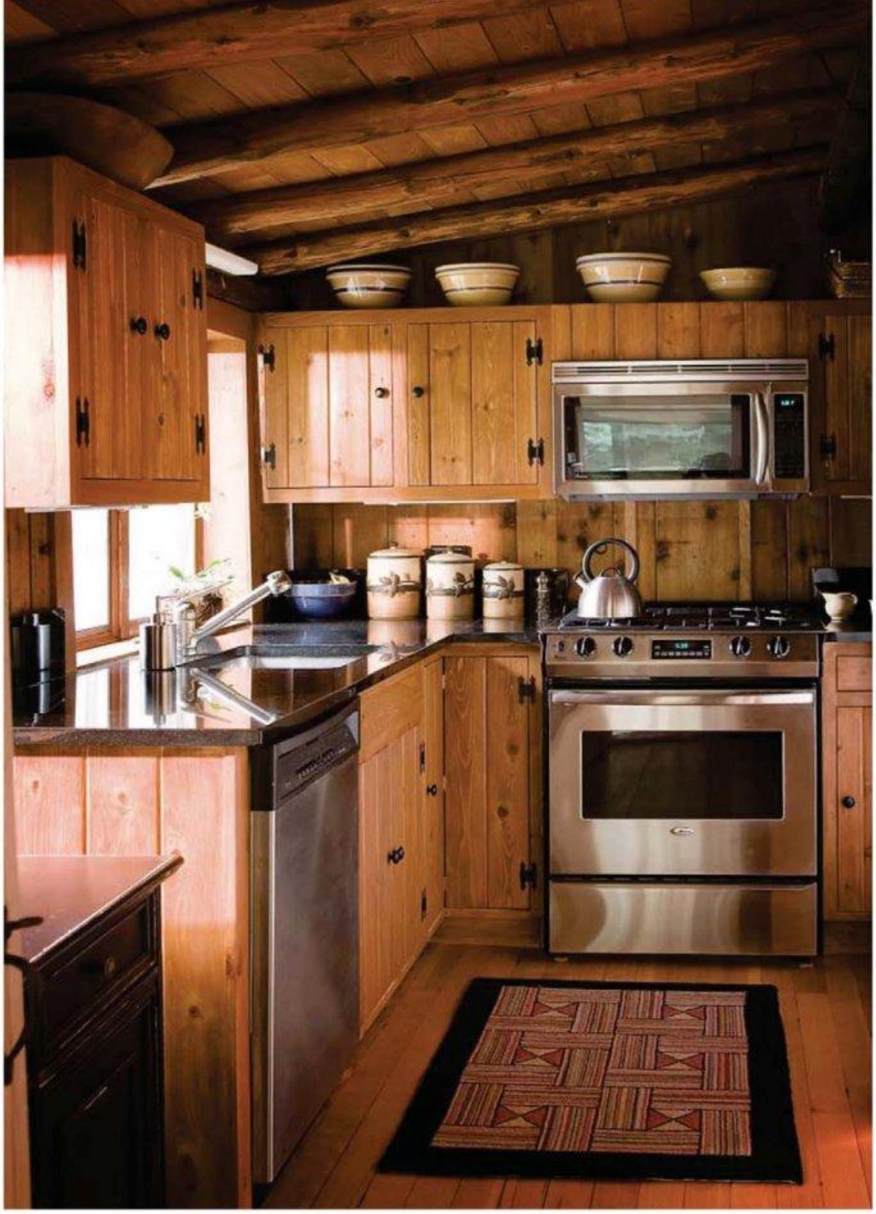




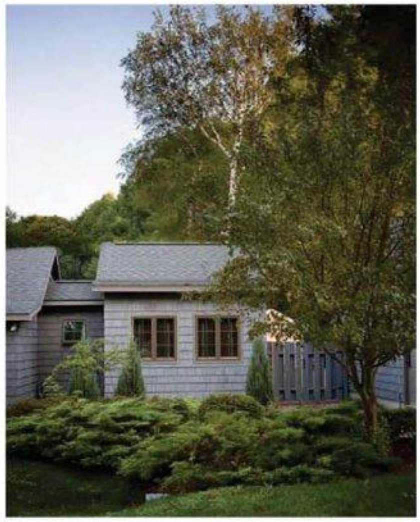
OPPOSITE: Skylights (not shown) brighten the great room, otherwise in near original condition. **ABOVE:** Light-colored pickling stain makes the tiny sunroom seem larger. **RIGHT:** By limbing trees and hauling away dead wood, the new owner opened up a lake view on the small parcel of public access property across the street.







OPPOSITE: A transom window adds extra light to the new master bedroom. **CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT:** New kitchen cabinets replicate the originals, which were too shallow for the owner's dinner plates. The "hyphen" between the cottage and its addition adds privacy when houseguests visit. Note the cabin's amber-hued original pine paneling.



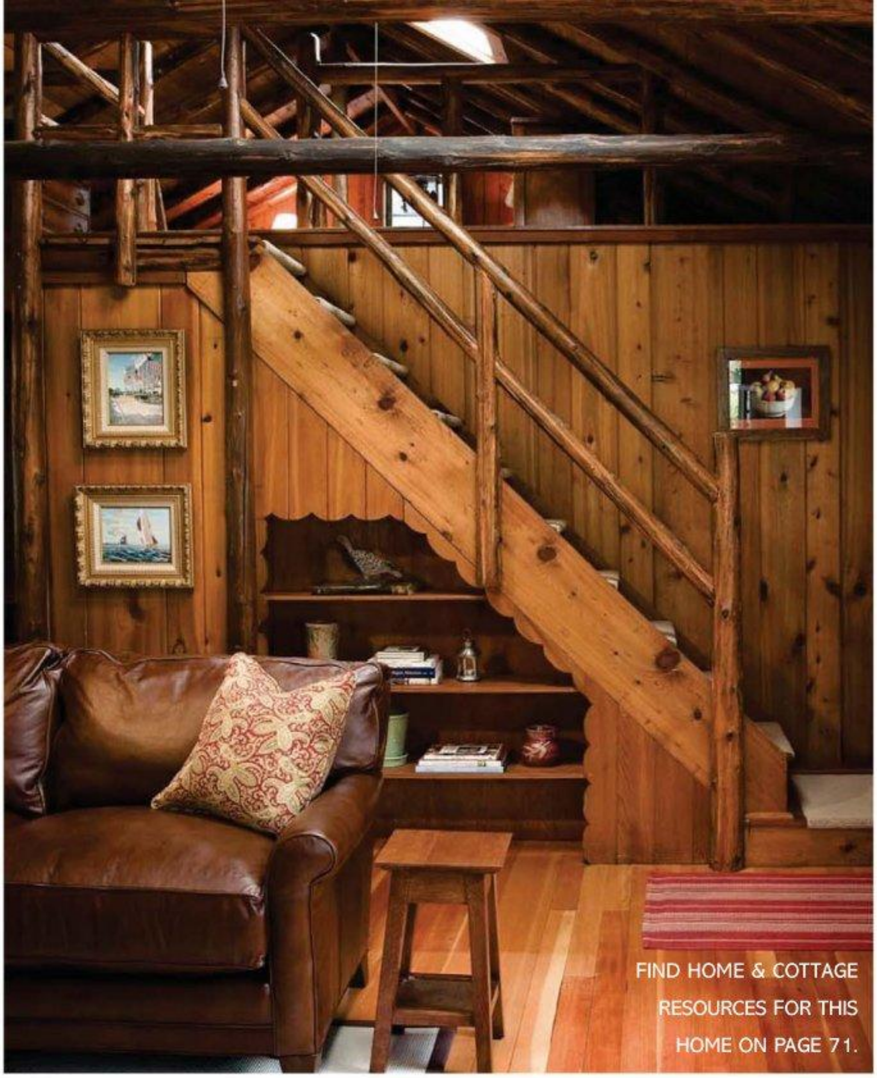


When an old cottage on a popular lake goes up for sale, its neighbors fear the worst: a tear down, followed by an oversized McMansion squeezed onto a narrow lot.

But when this pint-sized cottage on Crystal Lake changed hands a few years back, its new owner never even considered such a crime against Up North's architectural heritage. Sure, the cottage was small by today's standards—a one-room living/dining/kitchen area, three shoebox-sized bedrooms, one bath—but its charm was jumbo-sized.

Built perhaps 100 years ago, the cottage has timber beams, a noggin-grazing open loft, pine paneling aged to a rich amber, and a cut-stone fireplace that was supposedly rebuilt rock by rock when the house was moved from the other side of the lake decades ago. One of the original windows is still intact, complete with multiple panes of wavy glass.

The new owner was delighted that so many historic features had been preserved. And he appreciated the improvements made by previous owners: a wraparound sunroom, an expansive party deck, skylights, cedar-shake siding, granite countertops. A cottage this well tended was definitely a keeper, he decided, even if the kitchen could fit inside an average closet, and the dining area could hold no more than four guests. "If we have more than that, we use trays," says the owner, insisting that there's plenty of room in the living area. "It's summer. It's relaxed. People like it that way."



FROM TOP: The loft's original, rustic stairway. The tiny window on the original back door became a motif for the new owner's remodel.

Still, after his initial summer at the cottage, he was feeling a little cramped. He wanted just a bit more room—a laundry, another bathroom and a bedroom big enough to turn around in. But how could he add on without destroying the character of the original cottage?

He finally settled on designing a separate structure, consisting of only a mid-sized master bedroom and adjoining bath, and positioned it about five feet back from the old cottage. A standard-width hallway connects the two buildings.

This hallway, or "hyphen," serves as a transition between style as well as space, meaning that the new rooms acknowledge but do not mimic the look of the original cottage. For example, the pine paneling in the new bedroom is used as wainscot beneath drywall, whereas the old cottage is pine from ceiling to floor. Likewise, the timber beams added to the ceiling in the new bedroom are bigger than those in the original living room.

The renovation did make one change to the old cottage: a tiny bedroom was converted into a bathroom/laundry room. Outside, a wobbly boathouse was demolished and replaced with a sturdy two-berth garage. "I wanted the addition to look like another cabin and the garage to look like one, too," says the owner. "The idea is to have a family of little buildings."

Since the major construction was completed in 2005, the new owner has had time to make smaller improvements, such as remodeling the garden shed. Beulah-based carpenter and woodworker Steve Knapp has helped, building new doors and kitchen cabinets and installing the Cape Cod–style garden gate and split-rail fence.

Much of the landscaping work, however, has been done by the owner himself, a retired New York City executive who has made a second career in the horticulture and garden design business. He cleared the overgrowth from the one-acre property, which actually sits across the road from the lake, and has been continually improving its gardens. Last summer, he planted a line of roses along the split-rail fence. With the chores done, it's time to relax. "This summer," he says, "I'm going to get a kayak."

Janet Lively writes and teaches in Traverse City. JANETLIVELY@CHARTER.NET



DOOR *Adore*

If delight is in the details, the doors of this cottage are sure to please. The front entry door welcomes guests with its tomato red paint and piques their curiosity with a four-pane window inset at eye level.

The door was custom-made by carpenter Steve Knapp, who painstakingly copied the cottage's original back door leading out to the sunroom. Knapp made a similar door, also red, for the garden shed he rebuilt last summer.

Doors from the demolished boathouse were salvaged and retrofitted for the entrance to the new bedroom. The narrow doors, even narrower now and still with their old paint, swing open like they did on the boathouse.

The new garage has state-of-the-art metal doors with a deceptively old-school look. One almost has to touch the doors to realize that they're not wood. And while they appear to pull open like barn doors, they actually slide up, suburban-style, into the ceiling of the garage.



UP NORTH INDUSTRIAL

TEXT BY **JANET LIVELY**
PHOTOGRAPHS BY **TODD ZAWISTOWSKI**

An urban minimalist design (with a rustic soul) fits in at the beach.



GREEN idea

All but a tiny patch of lawn was ripped up and replaced with native plants. Decking made from recycled plastic and wood leads down to the bay.





SIMPLE, green and modern with an industrial edge. That's how Jon and Frances Carlson envisioned their Up North cottage as they mused over its eventual renovation. For several years, Frances collected ideas and pictures, many clipped from *Dwell* magazine, a guide for the urban and savvy.

Yet with three little ones of their own, a pack of young nieces and nephews, and many friends who travel with kids in tow, real life had to be factored into the design. The Carlsons required a cottage that could stand up to sandy feet and wet bathing suits, not to mention energetic games on rainy afternoons.

Fortunately, this function and that form turned out to be perfectly suited to one another. Stripped to its studs, the old cottage was reborn as a modern rustic showpiece that doubles as a gymnasium. "We've had a soccer game in here," Jon says, noting that plans for concrete floors were abandoned because little kids need the extra "bounce" of hardwood. "It's basically indestructible."

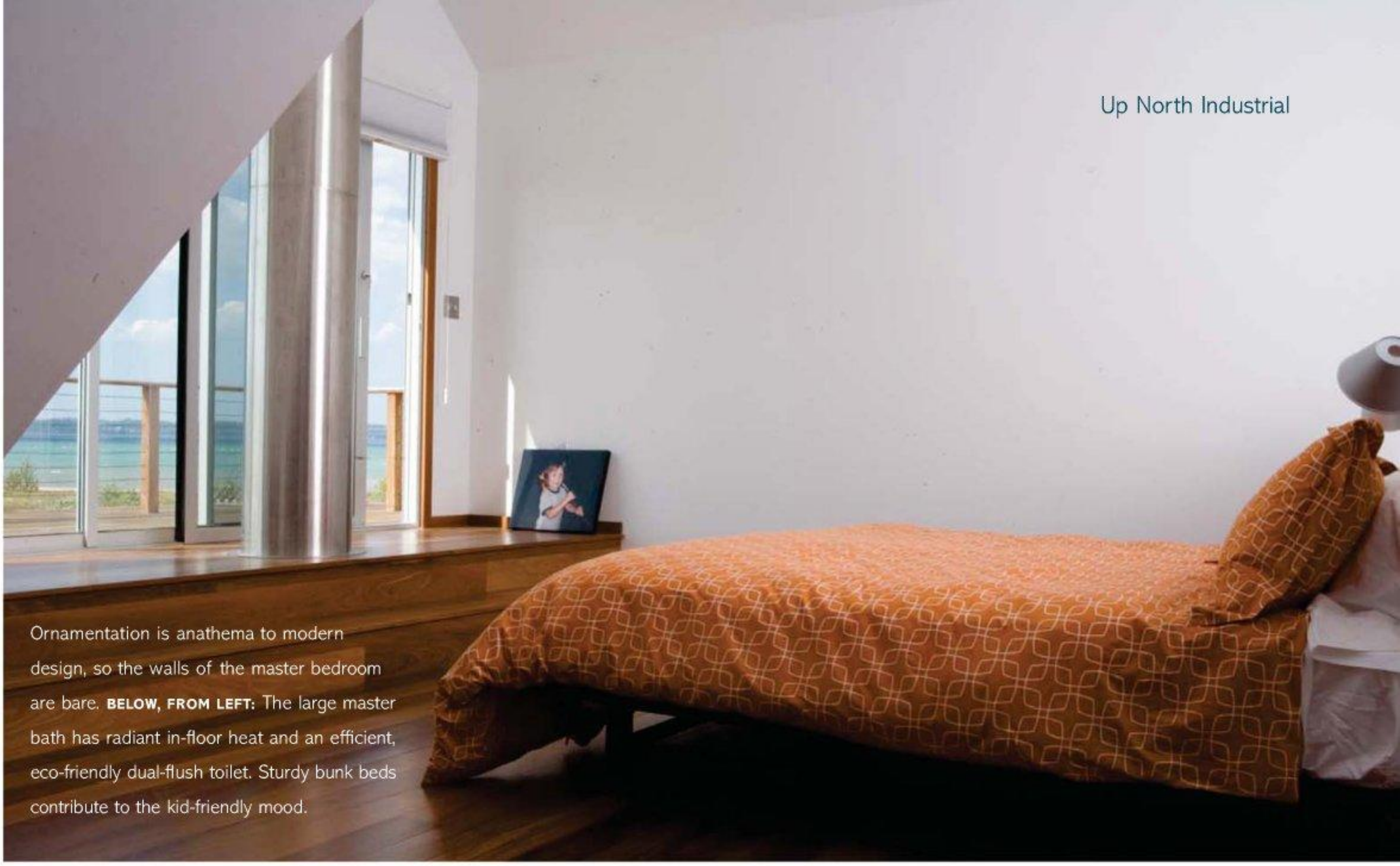
The metamorphosis is remarkable for a seasonal cottage built nearly 30 years ago. Jon's family bought it when he was a kid, and by the time he was in college, it had become his responsibility. The cottage made a fine party place, but it got a little crusty during those years. "I never wanted to take off my shoes inside," Frances remembers.

Yet there was never any question of selling the cottage and its 200 feet of shoreline on the east arm of Grand Traverse Bay. The view looks straight across at Jon's parents' home on Old Mission Peninsula, where Jon grew up. The water here is shallow and bathtub warm. Sunsets are spectacular.

Inexplicably, the original cottage had only a few small windows looking out toward the bay. Adding a view was a no-brainer. So was hiring the professionals—Royal Oak architect Brian Howard, who has worked with the Carlsons on other projects, and Traverse City general contractor Brad Warren (45TH Parallel Construction), Jon's buddy from high school and frequent visitor to the cottage since its guy-cave days. Because they live downstate, the Carlsons left the details up to Warren. "Quite frankly, without Brad, this never would have been possible," Jon says.



OPPOSITE: If the design is new millennium, the decor looks backward; the Carlsons love mid-century modern style. **TOP:** Transoms above the commercial-grade window walls let in enough breeze to eliminate the need for first-floor air conditioning. **ABOVE:** The staircase by 45TH Parallel Construction picks up the industrial motif and open feel of the design.



Ornamentation is anathema to modern design, so the walls of the master bedroom are bare. **BELOW, FROM LEFT:** The large master bath has radiant in-floor heat and an efficient, eco-friendly dual-flush toilet. Sturdy bunk beds contribute to the kid-friendly mood.







Wall space in the kitchen goes to windows, not cabinets. A walk-in pantry provides storage space. **BELOW:** The decking is long-lasting ipe from Brazil.

SIMPLY **MODERN**

As great admirers of modern architecture, Jon and Frances Carlson worked hard to adhere to one of its guiding principles: keep it simple. They started by limiting the number of materials used. The charcoal-colored porcelain tile used on the fireplace is repeated in all the bathrooms. Ipe, the chocolate brown South American hardwood (sustainably harvested), is used for all of the interior flooring, trim and exterior decks. Manufactured quartz stone countertops are repeated in the kitchen and the bathrooms. Stainless steel is used throughout.

The Carlsons call their cottage modern rustic, but there are no deer antlers here. The rustic shows up in exterior elements—the metal roof reminiscent of a barn, the cedar siding that will weather to gray, and the way the house is set in the landscape. Inside, the look is spare but not cold, a clean simplicity that works to emphasize the outside environment. Surrounded by gorgeous views, Frances says, "We always feel warm."

Howard designed a bump-out living room with wrap-around windows looking out at the bay. The three upstairs bedrooms have floor-to-ceiling windows, including sliders leading from the master bedroom to a generous deck. Instead of wall-mounted cabinets in the kitchen, there's a window. Instead of mirrors above the sinks in the master bathroom, a wall of windows looks out at a pine grove.

All the windows are commercial grade, with aluminum framing and metal latches and handles that are functional and contribute to the industrial motif. Stainless steel posts further the look, while also supporting the open floor plan downstairs (more room for soccer). They match the shiny, stainless trunk-like flue on the freestanding tile fireplace and the steel frame of the dining room table. The open-tread floating staircase uses steel posts and galvanized cable instead of spindles.



FIND HOME & COTTAGE RESOURCES FOR THIS HOME ON PAGE 71.

The top of their dining room table is a sheet of plywood they finished themselves, and its chairs were recycled from one of Jon's restaurants. (He's a partner in a restaurant development business with holdings that include Traverse City favorites The Blue Tractor and North Peak Brewing Co.) Savings like that allowed them to splurge on a few extras—some special pieces of mid-century modern furniture, radiant heat in the bathroom, a Murphy bed for the playroom.

While the Carlsons found creating a style intriguing, their main motivation for renovating the cottage was to provide a welcoming gathering place for as many friends and family members as can crowd around a campfire. "This is supposed to be a fun house," Jon says. And as friends stop by and kids dash around, the cottage seems to be just that.

Janet Lively writes and teaches in Traverse City. JANETLIVELY@CHARTER.NET



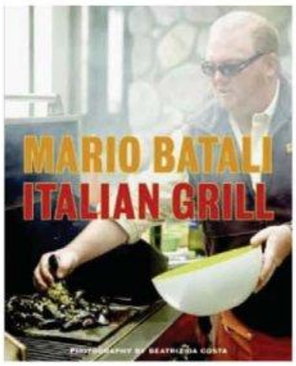
Cook out

Food just tastes better outside.

BY **ELIZABETH EDWARDS**









1 Hot dogs are so 40 years ago. Whip up homemade pizza at the cottage on an Outdoor Artisan Pizza Oven and sing, "Everyone will be in love with me." This hand-fabricated stainless steel beauty is made in Michigan by Kalamazoo Outdoor Gourmet. $3,990. KALAMAZOOGOURMET.COM.

2 True grill maestros need fine-tuned instruments; All-Clad has them covered with this four-piece stainless steel barbecue set. $99. MARY'S KITCHEN PORT IN TRAVERSE CITY. 231-941-0525.

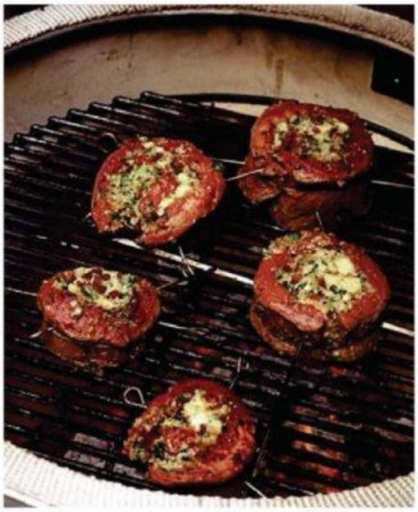
3 Salties call it a lobster pot, but freshwater folks know that the crustacean pictured on the outside is really a crayfish. Either way, set this 16-quart whopper of a pot on a grill over your bonfire to cook up anything that swims your way. $100. CUTLER'S IN PETOSKEY, 231-347-0341; CRYSTAL CRATE & CARGO IN BEULAH, 231-882-5294. FOR MORE UP NORTH DEALERS, LECREUSET.COM.

4 If you happen to brush shoulders with the North's favorite celeb chef this summer, you'll want to mention you tried out one of the recipes in his latest book, *Mario Batali Italian Grill*. $29.95. AT MOST UP NORTH BOOKSTORES OR GO TO MARIOBATALI.COM.

TURN THE PAGE FOR BATALI'S GRILLED BEEF BRACIOLE RECIPE.

5 Don't even think about cracking open *Mario Batali Italian Grill* without wrapping one of Batali's signature orange aprons around your middle. $27.99, THE FRONT PORCH, SUTTONS BAY. 800-307-7210, FRONTPORCHSB.COM.

TOOLS: TODD ZAWISTOWSKI. OTHERS: COURTESY THEIR RESPECTIVE COMPANIES.



Cook out

MARIO BATALI **GRILLS.**

Excerpted from Mario Batali's Italian Grill *cookbook, Harper Collins, 2008*

Beef Braciole "Pinwheel-Style"

Beef braciole is traditionally made with slices of top round or a similar cut, pounded thin and wrapped around a savory filling, and it's a mainstay at street fairs. Here is a more refined version, all the lusty flavors of braciole wrapped up in a butterflied tenderloin—and the results are spectacular. You can have the butcher butterfly the meat, but it's easy to do yourself (see below). Be sure to buy good salami for this dish, from an Italian market/deli or, even better, from salumicuredmeats.com.

2 garlic cloves, finely minced
4 scallions, thinly sliced
¼ cup chopped fresh Italian parsley
4 ounces thinly sliced salami, cut into ¼-inch-wide matchsticks
8 ounces Italian Fontina, cut into ¼-inch cubes
½ cup freshly grated Parmigiano-Reggiano
½ cup toasted bread crumbs
¼ cup plus 3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
One 10-inch-long beef tenderloin roast cut from the heart of the tenderloin (2½ to 3 pounds), butterflied (see Note)
Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper

In a medium bowl, combine the garlic, scallions, parsley, salami, Fontina, Parmigiano, and bread crumbs and mix well. Add ¼ cup of the olive oil and mix well with your hands or a spoon. Set aside.

Cut six 15-inch-long pieces of kitchen twine. Open out the beef, season on both sides with salt and pepper, and place it on a work surface so a long side is toward you. Spread the bread crumb mixture evenly over the beef, leaving a ½-inch border along the side farthest from you; press and gently pack the stuffing mixture onto the beef to keep it in place (you may have a little stuffing left over—it makes a great panini filling). Starting from the side nearest you, roll up the meat like a jelly roll, pressing any stuffing that falls out of the ends back into the roll, and tie tightly with the twine, spacing the ties evenly (it's easier if you have a friend to tie the beef while you hold the roll together). Wrap tightly in plastic wrap to make a compact roll, and place in the refrigerator for at least 2 hours, or as long as overnight.

Preheat a gas grill or prepare a fire in a charcoal grill.

Carefully unwrap the beef roll and, using a very sharp knife, cut it between the ties into six 1½-inch-thick pinwheels. Brush gently on both sides with the remaining 3 tablespoons olive oil and season with salt and pepper.

Gently lay the pinwheels on the hot part of the grill and cook, unmoved, for 5 to 7 minutes. Using a spatula, carefully turn each pinwheel over and cook for 4 minutes longer for medium-rare. (Don't be alarmed if some of the cheese in the stuffing starts to melt and char on the grill, making kind of a savory Florentine-cookie-like thing; but if you find it charring too much, move the pinwheels to a slightly cooler part of the grill.) Transfer to a platter and serve. Serves 6.

Note: To butterfly the beef, simply use a sharp knife to cut it horizontally almost but not all the way in half, starting from one of the long sides, so you can open it out like a book.

PHOTO: COURTESY HARPER-COLLINS.

Unflapped

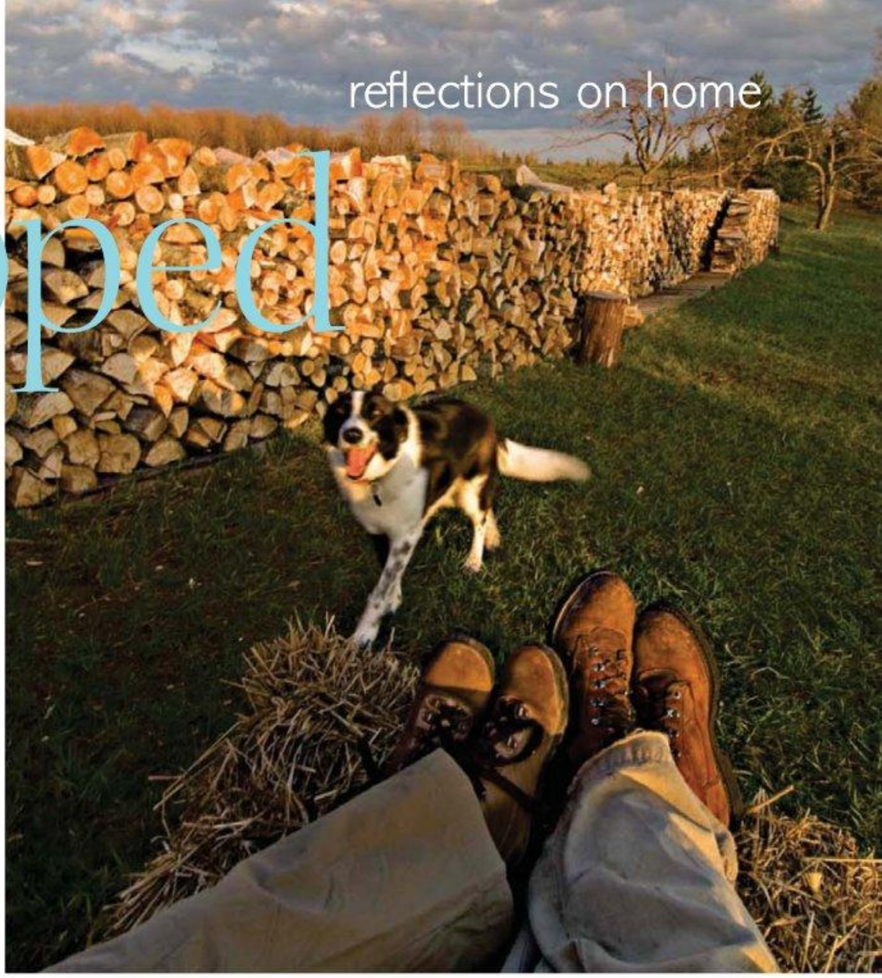


PHOTO: AARON PETERSON.

If a walnut-sized bird that's going to cross the Gulf of Mexico in the next few months can take a break, well, maybe we could too.

BY **AARON PETERSON**

I saw what was going to happen the moment the angular split of white birch launched from my hand, a chalky flap of bark following like a contrail. The birch bomb smacked the dog's speckled rump, exploding in an impossibly sharp "yiiipe!" that pierced the stifling afternoon heat.

Gus, one of our emotionally fragile and frenetic border collie mutts, bolted from the woodshed and dove under the trailer where I was standing. I'd been moving the woodpile in a work-induced trance of pick-up-wood, toss-wood. He'd been sneaking bits of bark to gnaw neurotically and got caught in the friendly fire.

"What did you do to the dog?" demanded my wife, Kristen, poking her head out from inside the shed where she'd been stacking the wood I was tossing.

Things hadn't been going well that day, and it apparently wasn't going to get better. Maybe it was the still air, thick as bathwater. Or maybe it was because from the moment we saw bare ground in late April, she and I had been raking, wrenching, digging and painting our old farmstead back into shape. Over winter we'd happily filled page after page of a legal pad with projects we fully believed would be accomplished this summer.

Here's the thing: We like work. Or, perhaps it's not that we like it, but we know it, understand it and draw animal comfort from it, like Gus gnawing piles of bark into splinters. A friend has diagnosed us with "pointy butt syndrome," the inability to sit still. But everyone has limits, and now in mid-July and only about 10 items into our list, we could already taste murder in the back of our throats.

Kristen scrambled over the pile and out of the shed, sleeves rolled. Her forearms were bruised and cut, it was 90 degrees and humid, she had sawdust in places I'm not supposed to write about … and now I was beating her dog. There was going to be a reckoning. A wood-chopping woman from the U.P. was about to remind me of all the things I already knew about myself but tried to forget. This was going to involve genetics, and nicknames and intimacies I definitely won't write about. This was going to hurt.

But then she stopped. She was looking over my shoulder, where the south side of the white farmhouse rippled in the heat.

"Look at that," she said, pointing. "There, on the clothesline."

It was a female ruby-throated hummingbird, sitting like a plump long-beaked Buddha, perfectly still on the clothesline in the middle of the yard. We'd seen several hummingbirds since spring, fighting around the feeder or buried eyes-deep in the pink sweet pea blossoms climbing up the pump house. They are pure energy, feathered electrons zipping through flower gardens from Panama to Canada and back within the year. Still, here she was just sitting, an emerald splash of Zen on our clothesline in the mid-summer heat.

If a walnut-sized bird that's going to cross the Gulf of Mexico in the next few months can take a break, well, maybe we could too. It's not like we hadn't earned it.

Already this year we'd hand-dug a trench 20 feet long for a new water line. We'd painted the house and outbuildings. We'd hacked, burned and hauled away the collapsed barn and tackled dozens of necessary projects we'd already forgotten. For months we'd been throwing ourselves at the all-consuming, bent-back-and-bleeding-fingers work that doesn't hurt until you stop at dusk.

The ability to work blindly is our inheritance, perhaps the only we'll see. It's how our people kept their heads above water, mostly, even while it planted them in the soil before their time. It's how a girl becomes the first in her family to go to college, works two jobs and doesn't stop until they tell her there aren't any degrees left to obtain. It's how we were able to buy this place, but it's not why we bought it. We bought it for the shot gun blasts of chaotic flowers in the yard and the two fat maples where the hammock ought to go but hasn't yet. We repotted our lives to this place because there are spots like the clothesline, where, if your feet are small enough and you have a belly full of nectar, you can relax—when you make the time.

We sat down in the wide woodshed door and leaned back against the sun-bleached hardwood splits to watch the hummingbird for what seemed like an eternity. It would blink, cock its head a bit, but otherwise was still. Humless. But I felt this whole green-and-blue planet purring along beneath us, with a couple of people, dogs and a weird little bird perfectly still at the axis.

Eventually Gus nudged me, a wet nose saying all was forgiven—if he could have another stick from the shed. The bird was gone. I started to get up, but Kristen put her gloved hand on my knee. We lingered a while longer, rolling our eyes and shrugging over it all. Sometimes not working takes more effort than the jobs that need doing. It's one thing to pile wood or dig a trench, but another to bury your instincts.

Writer-photographer Aaron Peterson is a frequent contributor to Northern Home & Cottage. AARONPETERSON.NET

Northern Home & Cottage

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Cottage Again



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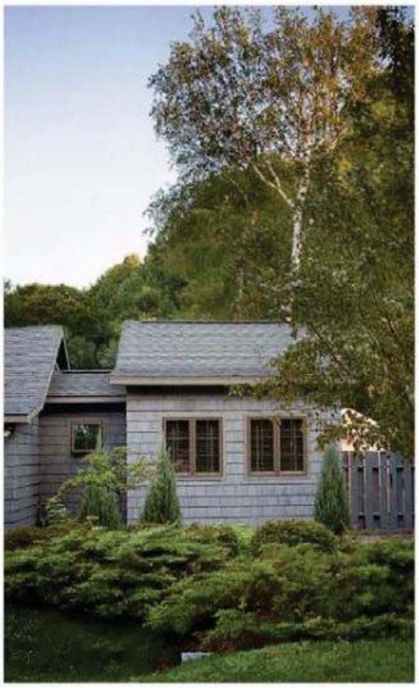
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Northern Lights & Lifestyles, Frankfort, 866-544-4894, northernlightsltd.com

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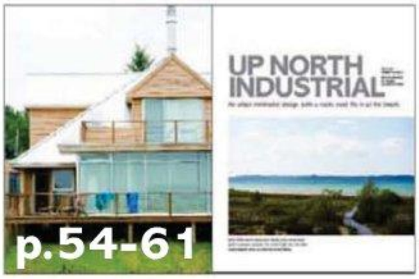
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: TODD ZAWISTOWSKI.